International Seabed Authority ISBA/21/C/20

Council

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Decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority relating to the summary report of the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission

The Council of the International Seabed Authority,

Recalling its decision adopted on 23 July 2014,[1]

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the summary report of the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission on the work of the Commission during the twenty-first session;[2]

2. *Welcomes* the work done by the Commission to review the template for the annual reports of contractors and encourages all contractors to comply with the new recommendations for guidance on the format, content and structure of annual reports, as adopted by the Commission,[3] with effect from 1 January 2016;

3. *Calls the attention* of contractors to the issues raised and recommendations made by the Commission on the annual reports of the contractors, as set out in annex II to the summary report of the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission;[1]

4. *Takes notes with appreciation* of the Commission's work on the framework for the exploitation regulations and *requests* the Commission to continue its work on exploitation regulations as a matter of priority;

5. *Endorses* the Commission's list of priority deliverables for the development of the exploitation code over the next 12 to 18 months, as set out in annex III to the report of the Chair of the Legal and Technical Commission;[1]

6. *Requests* the Commission to consider, as appropriate, the submission by the Netherlands in addressing serious harm to the marine environment in the Regulations for the exploitation of mineral resources in the Area in the context of its work on the preparation of draft regulations for exploitation in the Area;

[1] ISBA/20/C/31.
[2] ISBA/21/C/16.
[3] ISBA/21/LTC/15.

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7. *Recognizes* the importance of developing a data management strategy for the Authority and *requests* the secretariat to provide a draft management strategy and the financial implications of its implementation for consideration by the Commission at its February 2016 meeting;

8. *Notes* that the secretariat will prepare draft procedures on the handling of confidential data and information, as provided for in rule 12 of the rules of procedure of the Commission for consideration by the Commission at its next meeting in February 2016, and *reiterates its request* that the Commission submit procedures to the Council for consideration and approval not later than at its 2016 session;

9. *Recalls* that the Commission's report to the Council regarding the review of the implementation of the environmental management plan for the Clarion-Clipperton Zone is due to be delivered in 2016 and *requests* that a workshop to review the implementation of the plan be convened before the twenty-second session in 2016;

10. *Encourages* the Commission and the secretariat to make progress on the development of environmental management plans in other international seabed area zones, in particular where there are currently contracts for exploration, in line with the suggestion made by the United Nations General Assembly in paragraph 51 of its resolution 69/245;

11. *Encourages* all contractors to make their environmental data readily and publicly available;

12. *Notes* that the Commission has requested the secretariat to draft a stakeholder consultation and participation strategy for the Authority and *requests* the Commission to continue to explore initiatives to increase transparency and dialogue on the development of its work, in particular on issues of general interest to member States and other stakeholders of the Authority;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that adequate time and resources continue to be made available to support the work of the Commission, especially on priority issues;

14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to update the Council on the implementation of the present decision at its twenty-second session in 2016.